SUCCESS I

SUCCESS !

Is No Greater Than It Should Be, Though an Interesting and in Many Ways Able Experiment-A Problem Play Without

As an experiment, "The Strength of the Weak," in which Miss Florence Roberts last night made her bid for metropolitan approval at the Liberty, is interesting nd in many ways able; but both as regarde the work of the actress and her two lady playwrights, it is to be feared that it is not altogether successful.

a Problem-An Emotional Actress.

The play is what used to be described, inaccurately enough, as a problem play, and it centres in the usual strongly emotional feminine rôle. A girl in her youth and innocence has been seduced by a much older man, and the abhorrence of her sin has aroused in her the full measure of her soul. She educates herself at a woman s college, and determines to triumph over her past. Winning the love of a rather the and generous young man, she confesses everything to him. After a struggle he forgives her and promises to marry her. But as it happens he turns out to be the son of the seducer-and discovering this,

she kills herself.

Against such themes in the drama we have as a people a strong prejudice, which s no doubt stupid enough, even provincial But a great man, who by no means shared is prejudice, once made a remark which is applicable to the new piece at the Liberty. Anartist has no right. Goethe said, to produce an impression of pain which has not also its attendant and compensating spiritua reaction. Aristotle himself, nurtured on some pretty stiff tragic stories, defined the some pretty still tragic stones, derned the function of tragedy as a purification. Now, precisely what "The Strength of the Weak" most lacks is this touch of spiritual reaction and purification. It is written with much cleverness in dialogue, and with a prevailing sense of reality in spite of much that is conventionally theatric, but it begins in the horror of sin and each in merain the horror of sin and ends in mere

The simple fact is—ungracious though it be to say so—that the trail of the feminine mind is over it all. Many of the lines are bright, and some of them are brilliant. There are flashes of rare intuition in char-acter drawing, and here and there and effective dramatic situation of the conven-tional order. But all this is mere millinery

tional order. But all this is mere millinery and modistery.

The effect of the moment is often gained at the expense of simple truth. And there is no trace of the rigid constructive intellect which alone justifies such a searching of the murky depths of human existence. And the whole was swamped in oceans of aimless and endless talk—chatter about the foibles of a moment, and chatter about passion and destiny. Of the loquacious charm of the weak there is abundance; but of real strength there is nothing.

Miss Roberts is an actress of no little intelligence and emotional power. Her defect is that her methods and manner

defect is that her methods and manner seem a mere replica of those of Mrs. Fiske There were times when one actually seeme There were times when one actually seemed to be at the Manhattan. She has, it is true, some of Mrs. Fiske's histrionic intelligence and poignant realism of emotion. But for the most part her manner is dominated by the lack of subtlety, the 'positive obviousness, which is associated with the art of the road.

of the road.

Much of her mimique is aimed point blank at the audience, and expresses things directly which in life are at most only suggested. She does not rant or stride, but nonetheless she lacks the power of fluent, subtle and sustained effect. When, as constantly happens, a dramatic passage strays into aimless verbiage, she lacked the rower to infuse it with vitality.

Tyrone Power lent to the part of the mid-

dle aged seducer a certain solidity which it did not in itself possess. As the young lover Eugene Ormonde was simple, restrained and generously manly, but with-out personal charm. As a dramatically needless young villian F. S. Northrup was incisive and, in spite of a certain exaggera-tion of method, prevailingly real. Max Figman did wonders with the character comedy of a German Baron in love with a

young American madeap.

As an elderly vulgarian and malaprop
Florence Robinson had a few effective
moments; and as an athletic and downright moments; and as an athletic and downright sweet girl graduate, Ruth Allen won the plaudits of a friendly house. Most of the applause, in fact, was manifestly partisan. The scenery was elaborate—so elaborate, in fact, that the apartments of the heroine, struggling to support herself by her pen, could scarcely have been inadequate to an heiress. The stage management was elaborately detailed and carefully rehearsed.

DOUBLE BILL AT THE CRITERION. Francis Wilson Adds "The Little Father of the Wilderness."

A new feature at the Criterion Theatre last night was a one act curtain raiser to "The Mountain Climber." It was called "The Little Father of the Wilderness," with Francis Wilson playing the leading role as Père Maclotte, a heroic Jesuit priest. Père Marlotte had been one of the pioneer Jesuits in America. He was back in Paris and Louis XV., not knowing of the priest's and Louis XV., not knowing of the priest's heroic deeds, but knowing that he had some knowledge of the new country, summoned him to the court. Pere Marlott expects and hopes to be rewarded by the king with church honors. He and his faithful friend, Frère Gregoire, a Franciscan friar (George S. Spencer), appear at the court. Their Spencer), appear at the court. Their nple rustic garb affords opportunity for n making by the courtiers and the king's

fun making by the courtiers and the king's favorite (Edith Barker).

Père Marlotte instead of being called to accept honors has been summoned to decide a bet between the King and one of his courtiers as to the height of Niagara Falls. The King looses and the Jesuit's hopes are shattered until finally Chevalier de Frontenac Governor of New France (Joseph Brennan), appears with a band of Indians, recognizes the father and praises him to the King. Then the King asks for Père Marlotte's blessing and the father is made an Archbishop.

NOTED DRESSMAKER DEAD. Catherine Donovan Made Gowns for Many

Persons of Fashion-Had 200 Employees. Mrs. Catherine Donovan of 280 Madison avenue, a noted dressmaker, died at Lakewood, N. J., last Monday night. She had gone to Lakewood for the Easter holidays, and contracted a cold that developed into pneumonia. She was 80 years old. She was born in Ireland, but came to this country while a girl, and at an early age started in business for herself as a dressmaker at Eighteenth street and Fifth century Mrs. Donovan had been making dresses for society people of New York. Her work won her a large clientele and her friends often referred to her as the

Worth of America. The Livingstons and other old families were among her first patrons, and shekept them through the years. It is said that she made the "coming out" dresses for three generations in many prominent families of the city. As the city grew northward Mrs. Donovan moved her shop to Thirty-fifth street and Fifth avenue, and twenty years ago to 280 Madison avenue, which she owned, and where she lived at the time of her death. She employed 200 persons. She owned considerable real estate about the city. She was reputed wealthy, and is said to have been a generous though annoymous giver to charity. Her husband, Dr. Charles Donovan, died years ago. them through the years. It is said that

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Mrs. Donovan had patrons in all parts of Vanderbilt's trousseau and did a large part of the work on Alice Roosevelt's wedding gowns. In spite of her advanced age, she maintained active supervision of the work in her shop up to the time of her death. Funeral services will be held in St. Patrick's Cathedral.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS.

The Lyceum Club of London, of which Mrs. Kate Douglas Wiggin and Mrs. Florence Earle Coates are members, had thirty Americans among its members at its foundation, and others have been added since. The club was founded by Miss Constance Smedley, the author of "An April Princess," for the benefit of original workers in literature, journalism, science, art and music. It was successfully financed before it existed and has branches in France and Germany, but not in America.

Louisville, Ky., is the "Lesser Literary Centre of America" discussed by the current Book News and among the celebrities which give fame to this old town on the banks of the Ohio is Madison Cawein, whose first small volume of verse appeared nearly twenty years ago. At present Mr. Cawein is engaged upon a revision of all his works. which in the near future will be issued in a ten volume edition. Mrs. Rice, who was Miss Hegan when her first book was written, is a Southern lady and her "Cabbage Patch" exists in one of the most squalid parts of Louisville. "Mrs. Wiggs" exists too, although under another name, of course. The aggregate sales of Mrs. Rice's three books amount to some 800,000 copies. Harrison Robertson has lived in Louisville so long that he has become permanently identified with the city and its people Mrs. Elizabeth Cheery Waltz, whose death occurred a year ago, was one of the interesting figures of literary Louisville and literary editor of the Courier-Journal, as well as author of the "Pa Gladden" stories Mrs. Annie Fellows Johnston lived for some time in a Louisville suburb. Children from every part of the world have besieged the author of the "Little Colonel" stories with letters so that she had to resort to a printed form in answering them. Louisville also claims George Madden Martin, author of "Emmy Lou."

Justin Huntly McCarthy has taken as the theme of his new novel the story of Joan of Arc, and around the well known facts has constructed a semi-historical romance. As is his usual custom, Mr. McCarthy has written both novel and dramatic version at the same time, and the play will be given next season by E. H. Sothern and Julia Marlowe. The new story will be called "The Flower of France.

Mrs. Myrta Locket Avary recently received a letter from England saying: "A friend in America has just presented me (on my eightieth birthday) with your book, 'A Virginian Girl in the Civil War.' I am sure one of the characters in it under an assumed name is one of my earliest and dearest friends, of whom I have lost sight for years. Can you tell me his address or tell me if he is living or dead?" The address was given, the old friends are in correspondence again, and foundation for a new romance might be laid, only romances at eighty are likely to be brief for obvious reasons

A unique form of military dictionary is being compiled by Mrs. Constance Oliver Skelton in the shape of a complete biographical list of officers of the name of Gordon who have served in the British army. Mrs. Skelton has marshalled some 2,000 names from army lists and authentic records. It is not often that a woman has underaken a military work of this character, though the Marchioness of Tullibardine is now engaged on a regimental history.

Dr. George Brandes's "Reminiscences of My Childhood and Youth" is shortly to be issued simultaneously in England and in America, and will also appear in the original Danish at Copenhagen.

Dr. Paul Hagen claims to have solved the problem of the authorship of the latest French poem adapted (or, as Dr. Hagen urges, translated) by Wolfram von Eschenbach in his "Parzival." Dr. Hagen's theory is that the poem was written in Fngland by Philip, Bishop of Durham, the companion and agent of Richard Cœur de Lion. The wide range of knowledge and of intellectual interests displayed in the "Parzival" which has seemed surprising in the unlettered and untravelled Bavarian knight becomes explicable, Dr. Hagen claims, if the authorship is attributed to the lifelong companion of the most famous king of the day, the pilgrim to Jerusalem and Compostella, the brilliant diplomatist who represented Richard at the imperial election of 1198 and who was familiar with Scotland and South Wales, and thus came into contact with living sources of Celtic tradition.

Queen Alexandra's private yacht, the Victoria and Albert, is the subject of discussion in the Harper's Bazar for May. "Simplicity is the note," we are informed; but even on the upper deck, which is exposed to the severest weather and the action of the salt spray, solid silver is used for the deck fittings. An electric elevator is provided for seasick royalties and a wonderful hospital is presided over by one of the ablest titled physicians in Europe.

The playing of whist under various forms has grown into a cult, is fast acquiring a literature and now is to have a magazine called Whist, and emanating from that hub of culture, literary Boston. H. H. Ward is the editor and R. F. Foster one of the principal contributors. Other American authorities on whist and bridge are among the contributors, and four of its forty pages will be devoted exclusively to bridge, which is still the card game of the hour, with a rapidly increasing literature.

In each of the six studies of married life given in the initial volume of the series of novelettes edited by Mr. Howells and Mr. Alden, entitled "Their Husbands' Wives," it is the woman who remodels her life and reconstructs her character to suit the situation, not the man. This may be unintentional on the part of the editors, or it may be another of the subtle compliments Mr. Howells delights in paying womankind. A group of women discussing the volume recently agreed unanimously that while "The Marriage Question," by Grace Ellery Channing, preavenue, then well up town. For half a sented an ideal of marriage that left nothing to be desired, the best husband in the book was depicted by Abby Meguire Roach in her novelette "Life's Accolade."

> Rex E. Beach has had a career that suggests in its humorous vicissitudes Mark Twain's early days. In trying to reach Dawson in the first rush of the gold fever his boat ran aground and the author and his companions were compelled to turn back to a new camp down the river. It was two years before the party could get away, and food being scarce Mr. Beach prevailed upon the passengers on the steamer to Dawson to "grub stake" them-a process involving some prevarication, for he says: "That is when I laid the foundation for my fictional writing, but I shall never equal the stories I turned out there, orally and right off the bat. My imagination had to soar for me to eat." Mr. Beach tells of his misadventures in a nonchalant and breezy manner but he suppresses the record of his good fortune, for he believes that "the tale of a man's success isn't in it with his hard luck

experiences." Warren Hastings's letters to his wife liest terms.

PUBLICATIONS

PUBLICATIONS.

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from which true poetry is made. He writes: My Marian, I am miserable. Though I know it to me. yet my Disappointment has tortured me with Sensations (for I cannot call them Reflexions t the Mind) similar to those which could arise of the Mind) similar to those which could arise from the worst Suggestions of Evil. It seems as if I had totally lost you, or (God forgive me) that you had totally forgotten me. I see you nightly; but such is the Sickness of my Imagination, that you constantly appear to turn from me with Indifference; nor can my Reason overcome the Gloom hich these Phantoms leave on my Mind. How hard! My Dreams vex me with unreal Evils, and the real Happiness of my past Life appears as a Dream, as a Dream passed long since, and he Traces almost effaced.

The eighth volume of the limited edition of the works of Maurice Hewlett, which has just appeared, contains "The Fool Errant." Volume nine will be "Pan and the Young Shepherd" and will appear early next month.

Prof. A. H. Smyth of Philadelphia, the ditor of the complete and final edition of Franklin's works, has been appointed by the President as special envoy of the United States to represent this nation at the unveiling of the statue of Franklin in Paris this week. The sixth volume of Prof. Smyth's edition, which appears this week, contains correspondence from 1776 to 1780 the "Bagatelles," printed in both French and English from previously unknown copies, and Franklin's correspondence with Mme. Brillon and other ladies of France.

A translation of "Il Santo," by the Italian novelist Fogazzero, whose stories have had so great vogue in his own country, will appear in America this spring.

Oscar Wilde died an undischarged bankrupt, but his executors announce that since Wilde's death the sale of his books (notably 'De Profundis") has enabled him to pay his English creditors in full. It is believed that the forthcoming uniform edition of his works will be sufficiently profitable to satisfy his French creditors.

Mr. W. L. Mackenzie of the Canadian Department of Labor has ventured into literature with the life story of Henry Albert Harper, under the title of "The Secret of " The author is a practical idealist of ability and sympathy. Not long, since in the coal miners' strike in British Columbia. Mr. Mackenzie personally visited the strike country, interviewed miners and operators, and in spite of serious conflict on both sides succeeded in providing so satisfactory a basis of settlement that operators and men alike have continued upon the friend-

ORPHANS DAY AT THE CIRCUS Most Enthusiastic of Audiences Turns Out for the Annual Treat.

Yesterday was favorites' day at Madison Square Garden. There were only the regular number of races on the programme but in every event the best man or the best woman won. At least the winners had with them from the start the unanimous sympathy of more than 6,000 youthful enthusiasts, not one of whom could be induced to leave the ringside before the last event was run off.

It was orphans' day at the circus. Tody Hamilton and Dan Fishell, whose duty it is to let the people know that there is such a thing as the "greatest show on earth," had been working overtime for a month on the arrangements for this one day, which of all days in the circus calendar used to bring most delight to the late James A. Bailey.

All the performers were on edge for the event, and put forth their best efforts. Ed Kennard, the clown who makes a special bid for the children's favor, was at his funniest, and he had need to be, for twenty or more of his brother jesters were making a desperate attempt to win from him his

The speculators, too, who have spent the afternoons during the stay of the circus in town in front of the Garden, also turned out to make the holiday a success, and instead of taking other people's money they made up a purse of fifty dollars out of their own pockets and bought peanuts for the youn geters. Even the weather man couldn't resist, and was on his good be-

That the show was a success, however, That the show was a success, however, was assured beforehand, for Dan Fishell received yesterday morning from a group of children a letter thanking him for the good time they had had. The letter came a little early, but it expressed the sentiment of all the boys and girls who flocked out of the Garden yesterday afternoon.

Mr. Fishell says he could have had \$8,000 children as his guests had he had the accommodations. But there is seating room for only about 6,000, and delegations from only eighty-four out of the \$50 institutions in New York which house orphans could be provided for.

Bellevue Children See the Circus. Several of the doctors in Bellevue Hospital made up a fund yesterday and send

to the circus eighteen of the children under treatment who were well enough to be out. The children were packed in two busees, in care of Drs. Frink and Mabey, with two nurses. They were treated to lemonade and peanuts and got souvenirs of the circus.

Comedian Al Leech Dying. LANCASTER, Pa., April 17.-Al Leech, the omedian who has been touring in "Girls will Be Girls," is dying at a Lancaster hotel.
Though very ill, he played last night, but collapsed this morning. His physician says there is no hope for his recovery.

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MORE AMERICAN MUSIC.

Henry Holden Huss Gives a Concert of

Original Compositions. Henry Holden Huss, a composer resident in this city, gave a concert of his own music in Mendelssohn Hall yesterday afternoon.

He had the assistance of his wife, Hildegard Hoffman Huss, soprano, and the Kneisel Quartet. The original compositions consisted of a romanza for 'cello, a group of piano pieces, three movements of a string quartet in E minor, five songs and a sonata in G minor for piano and violin. Before this list of works was begun the Keisel artists played one movement of Schubert's quartet in G major, and Mrs. Huss sang songs by Paradies, Arne, Bach, Wagner and Schu-

oncert, which began soon after 3 o'clock, did not end till 5.3°. If at any time in the course of the entertainment there had been anything of more novel merit than the admirable playing of the Kneisel Quartet, which is not new, there would have been occasion for extended discussion.

But alas!
Mr. Huss is a musician of excellent technical equipment and of high ideals whose fancy does not teem with ideas. His string quartet was the best composition heard yesterday, but it was by no means a satisfying work. The first movement showed the best hold on structural development and the themselies subjects were promising. its thematic subjects were promising. But the working out brought no captivat-

test hold on structural tevelophent and its thematic subjects were promising. But the working out brought no captivating fruition. In the scherzando there was some very awkward writing, suggesting the influence of the piano.

The piano pieces proved to be thin in substance and loose and pointless in construction. But Mr. Huss is industrious and ambitious and he has many friends and admirers. Doubtless his compositions will be heard often among these faithful ones, and some of his works have earned a place on concert programmes. The Kneisel Quartet, as has been intimated, played the string quartet with as much care and finish as if it had been a newly discovered composition from the pen of Schubert.

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HILL Thomas To day, "The Bells."
E. SHEA To-night, "Othello." GOLONIAL THE FADETTES OF BOS-Brway & e.g.d. Grace Fleids & No. Jand Girls. Daily Mats. 25c. Clarice Vance, Gus Williams. etc.

ALHAMBRA GRACE VAN STUDDIFORD.

7th Av., 126 St. Jno. L. Kearner & Co., Gus EdMats. Datly, 25c. wards School Boys & Girls, etc. GARDEN Thea. 27th St. & Mad. Av.

Bast week, 367th-368th times in New York.

GEO.

ADE'S COLLEGE WIDOW

Wallack's Broadway & 30th St. Evrs. 8:20.

Mat. To day 50c to \$1.50.

WILLIAM LAST 2 WEEKS.

FAVERSHAM - SQUAW MAN MADISON SQUARE GARDEN CONCERT 18.2 World's Champtonship PO-DAY, 2:30 — Cure vs. Cutler. 8:00 — Stosson vs. Sutton. 2:30 — Morningstar vs. Sutton. 2:30 — Morningstar vs. Sutton. 8:00 — Hoppe vs. Cure.

Madison Square Theatre MRS. TEMPLE'S TELEGRAM.

CARRICK S5th St. Evs. Sit. The delightful Parelcal Comedy, WHAT THE BUTLER SAWT, Mais, To-day & Sat. HEST SEATS 1

CARNEGIE LYCEUM 7th Ave. 4 57th St.
Three Days Only.
April 20 and 24, 8 P. M. April 26, 2 P. M.
PYGMALION and Gilbert's Amusing Comwith cuttain release GALATEA BY THE LOTUS POOL. PASTOR'S 1sth St. 5d Av. S. CONTINUOUS CONTINUOUS COMEDY 4-SAM COLLINS-ATLANTA SPENCER & CO.—CALVO.

Proctor's 5 W. Prisoner of Zenda & 50 Daily 58th St. Star Vaudeville, 25, 50 58th St. Star Vaudeville, 25, 50 Mat. 25c. 123th St. (Proud Prince) 25, 60 AMMERSTEIN'S 42d St. 25, 50, 75c., \$100.
PERSON OF THE STATE OF THE ST

Joe Weber's MALL Twiddle-Twaddle THE Squaw Man's Girline Golden West

FIELDS Eve. 8:15. Mat. Today & Sat. CTIDZON & HACKPIT'S Prod's 42St.W. of Bway Phone & Byant MR. HOPKINSON By R. C. HARLEN EVes. 8:15. Madinee Saturday, 2:15. GRAND Mat. MR. GUS ROGERS IN TO-CLOS A ROGERS IN REGIONS. IN Ireland

IRVING PL. THEATRE. Every Evg. & Sat.
"Seine Kammerjungfer." ("Neille Rozlyr") 14th St. THEATRE at 6th av. Popular Prices.
25 CENT MATINEE TO DAY.
FISKE O'HARA in Mr. Blarney From Ireland. OPEN 10 A.M. CONCEPTIONS OF CHRIST 10 10 P. M. 43 WEST 42 By Comment American Painters, EDEN WORLD IN WAX. New Groups
GINE HATOGRAPH Every Hour.
MUSEE HATTY Braham. Xtra Attractions.

HURTIG & SEAMON'S 125th St., bet. Mat. THE DEWEY HAST Mat. Today-Gay Morning Glories

THE GOTHAM EAST

Wardrobe Trunks

MENDELSSOHN Hall. This Afternoon at 8.

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MENDELSSOHN Hall. This Afternoon at 8.

Mat. To-day—RUNAWAY GIRLS

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Mat. To-day—RUNAWAY GIRLS

Mat. To-day—RUNAWAY GIRLS

PIANO

RECITAL Ernest Hutcheson WEST END Geo. Ade's "SULTAN OF SULU"."

POPULIAR Matinee TO-DAY, 25c.